

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3488  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 03451

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CG, PINS  
SUBJECT: DOUCY ON ZAIRE

1. ONE'S PAST HAS A WAY OF COMING BACK TO HAUNT YOU.  
CASE IN POINT IS THAT I WAS EXPOSED AT LUNCH APRIL 6 TO THE VIEWS OF  
ONE ARTHUR DOUCY, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BELGIUM'S  
SOCIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, WHO JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE A LARGE  
CONTRACT WITH MOBUTU FOR RESEARCH IN ZAIRE. HE SAY,  
HOWEVER, THAT HIS INTEREST IS NOT HIS \$5 MILLION CONTRACT  
BUT A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF HIS LIFE WHICH HE HAS  
DEVOTED TO ZAIRIAN AFFAIRS. I WOULD NOT BEGIN TO ASSESS  
WHAT HE HAD TO SAY BUT I DO BELIEVE IT IS INTERESTING  
ENOUGH TO REPORT.

2. HE BEGAN BY DESCRIBING ALL OF MOBUTU'S ELL-KNOWN  
FAILINGS, EMPHASIZING THE DISASTROUS ECONOMIC POSITION  
OF ZAIRE, ADDING THAT MOBUTU COULD SURVIVE ECONOMIC  
DISASTER BUT NOT MILITARY DEFEAT AND CONCLUDING THAT  
DESPITE HIS FAULTS, SINCE ANY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FAR  
WORSE, MOBUTU DESERVED WHT SUPPORT OF THE WEST IN THESE  
DIFFICULT HOURS.

3. DOUCY THEN GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE POLITICAL  
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ENVIRONMENT SURROUNDING THE INVASION OF SHABA, ALLEGING  
IN ADDITION TO WELL-KNOWN ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SOVIET-CUBAN  
AND NETO'S COMPLICITY THAT: 1) THERE IS NOW A SOVIET MISSILE  
BASE AT DAR ES SALAAM WHICH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CAN  
VERIFY IF HE GOES TO SEE THE AREA NEXT TO THE YACHT CLUB;  
2) THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE INFLUX OF SOVIETS INTO  
RWANDA IN RECENT WEEKS; 3) THAT NGOUABI AND THE

CARDINAL'S ASSASSINATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BECAUSE THEY WERE WORKING WITH MOBUTU TO REVERSE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE; AND 4) THAT KAUDA IS AS CONCERNED AS MOBUTU IN PART BECAUSE OF LUNDA POPULATION IN ZAMBIA.

4. AS FOR THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE ITSELF, DOUCY SAID THE INVADERS WOULD MEET POPULAR RESISTANCE ONCE THEY WERE OUT OF THE LUNDA AREA AND THAT THERE WAS STILL TIME TO HOLD THE LINE MILITARILY. HE INDICATED A BELIEF THAT OUTSIDE MERCENARIES ARE ESSENTIAL AND SAID IN PASSING THAT BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS HAD AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL BELGIAN OFFICERS WHO KNEW GENERAL SINGA TO JOIN THE ADVISORY STAFF IN SHABA. HE DESCRIBED KINSHASA AS A VOLCANO AND ARGUED THAT IT WAS CRITICAL THAT THE US PROMPTLY DELIVER FOOD TO KINSHASA AND BE PREPARED TO FACILITATE A FOOD DISTRIBUTION EFFORT IN OTHER DEPRESSED PARTS OF ZAIRE, MENTIONING KANANGA AND SHABA IN PARTICULAR.

5. HE DROPPED NAMES LIKE MAD AND ALLEGED THAT HE IS IN DAILY TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH ALFRED CAHEN OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHO HE SAYS IS SEEING BRZEZINSKI AND SENATOR CLARK ABOUT FOOD AID POSSIBILITIES. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN ZAIRE WHERE HE SAW MOBUTU AND HE ALLEGES THAT HE IS IN CLOSE TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH PROCURATOR GENERAL KIKONGI AND CENTRAL BANK DIRECTOR SAMBWA. HE PLANS RETURN ZAIRE APRIL 21 AT MOBUTU'S REQUEST.

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6. HE ALSO ALLEGES THAT SINCE CARETAKE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACT, BELGIAN PRIVATE CIRCLES WITH INTEREST IN ZAIRE ARE ENDEAVORING HELP. HE GAVE DET AILED ACCOUNT OF NEGOTIATIONS HE SAYS HE HAS CONDUCTED ON BEHALF BELGIAN INTERESTS FOR RETROCESSION OF CLEZA INTERESTS AND SAYS HE HAS INDICATION THAT MOBUTU MAY NOW BE PREPARED TO RETROCEDE THESE EIGHTEEN FIRMS WHICH DOUCY SAYS ARE CURRENTLY HELD BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. MOBUTU. HE ALLEGES PRESIDENT WILL NOW PUT ZAIRE AHEAD OF FAMILY INTERESTS AND THAT LITHO'S INFLUENCE IS DOWNGRADED. HE POISONED WELL AS FAR AS BISENGIMANA IS CONCERNED AND ATTRIBUTED MANY OF MOBUTU'S ECONOMIC MISTAKES TO BISENGIMANA.

7. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF MILITARY SITUATION HELD, AND IF US WOULD UNDERTAKE EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT MOBUTU WOULD SEE ADVANTAGES OF SERVING IN FUTURE AS FIGUREHEAD CHIEF OF STATE, TURNING OVER MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY TO SOME LIKE SAMBWA. HE THOUGH LESSON HAD BEEN LEARNED AND THAT MOBUTU

WAS INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO REFORM HIS WAYS. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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